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BATTLE ROYALE
KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster
Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa

8: Kayoko Kotohiki

1: Mizuho Inada

15: Shuuya Nanahara

8: Yoji Kuramoto

1: Yoshio Akamatsu

16: Yuka Nakagawa

9: Yuko Sakaki

2: Yukio Utsumi

16: Kazushi Niida

9: Hiroshi Kuronaga

2: Keita Iijima

17: Satomi Noda

10: Hirono Shimizu

3: Megumi Etou

17: Mitsuru Numai

10: Ryuhei Sasagawa

3: Tatsumichi Ooki

18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi

11: Mitsuko Souma

4: Sakura Ogawai

18: Tadakatsu Hatagami

11: Hiroki Sugimura

4: Toshinori Oda

19: Chisato Matsui

12: Haruka Tanizawa

5: Izumi Kanai

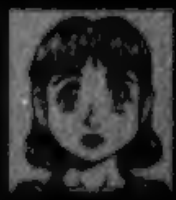
19: Shinji Mimura

12: Yutaka Sato

5: Shogo Kawada

20: Kaori Minami

13: Takako Chigusa


6: Yukiko Kitano

20: Kyoichi Motobuchi

13: Yuichiro Takiguchi

6: Kazuo Kiriyama

21: Yoshimi Yahagi

14: Mayumi Tendo

7: Yumiko Kusaka

21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto

14: Sho Tsukioka

7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

BATTLE ROYALE

BY

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

VOL. 12

TOKYOPOP®

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BATTLE ROYALE

STORY THUS FAR

In the near future, a random class of 9th graders has been kidnapped, marooned on an island, and forced to compete on *The Program*, a popular televised reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death. Each contestant has been given food, water, and a random weapon (which could be anything from a machine gun to a frying pan.) After the students were told that escape is impossible and that they'd all be executed if more than one student survived, the carnage and casualties quickly escalated to record-breaking levels.

Though forty-two students started the game, only seven remain. Of the seven, they can be broken down into two groups: those who are playing the game and those who are not. Those in the latter category are Shuuya Nanahara, an optimistic, would-be rock star; Noriko Nakagawa, a girl who started the game with a gunshot wound to the leg; Shogo Kawada, a former winner of *The Program* who claims to have a secret way off of the island; and Hiroki Sugimura, a shy, gentle, martial arts master.

The two people playing the game with gusto are Mitsuko "Hardcore" Souma and Kazuo Kiriyama. Souma has been using her sex and psychoses to increase the body count while Kiriyama has remained cold, clinical, and calculating when carrying out his many, many murders.

Sugimura was compelled to leave the group in order to find Kayoko Kotohiki, a girl he secretly has feelings for. Sugimura lost his closest friend, Takako Chigusa, to *The Program*, and his final moments with her have only fueled his desire to protect Kayoko from a similar fate. Sugimura's randomly distributed weapon is a hand-held tracking device that can detect other players, which he used to finally locate Kayoko.

But his worst nightmare came true, however, when an Uzi-toting Kiriyama attacked him and Kayoko. After he managed to disarm Kiriyama, the two young men fought hand-to-hand. At first, Sugimura's extensive martial arts training dominated the fight, but in a display of nearly supernatural fighting prowess, Kiriyama stabbed Sugimura in the eye and broke off several of Sugimura's fingers. Blinded by blood and fear, Sugimura must find the strength to fight--or he and Kayoko will surely die.

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A MACHINE... HOW DO I FIGHT THAT?!
NOT HUMAN...
HOW DO I FIGHT A MACHINE?! NO...NO CONSE-QUENCES...
KIRIYAMA...
...ARE YOU EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN?!
HUH!
KIRIYAMA... WHAT MADE YOU LIKE THIS...?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DEAD INSIDE?!
HOW LONG, KIRIYAMA?!

CHAPTER 88: Despair

LUH-
I CAN FEEL IT!
LEFT HAND...
LUH-
LEFT HAND... LEFT EYE...
MY HEART-BEAT...
LUH-
LUH-
MY... HEART-BEAT...
THROBBING! I CAN FEEL IT IN MY EYE!
LUH-
CHT
.....

NO...
DON'T LET HIM GET CLOSE...
GETS TOO CLOSE... TOO DANGEROUS...! NO...
H-HF
H-HF
H-HF...
H-HF.
H-HF
H-HF
H-HF
H-HF
Thud
H-HF...
H-HF...
H-HF...
H-HF...
H-HF...

GL
AR
K!
OH FUCK! OH FUCKOHFUCK NO!!
AH! AH DAMN! THAT HURT!
HURT LIKE A MOTHER FUCKER!
HN- NGH!
HOW...?
HE DIDN'T.. NEVER EVEN HIT THERE!
STOMACH ON FIRE.. DID'N HIT THERE...!
GYAH!

HNGH!
WHAT DID I MISS? WHAT DID HE DO TO ME?!
HE...
WHAT DID HE...?
AHHH... BURNS! HOW...? WHEN...?
H-HUH H-HUH
HE NEVER HIT ME IN THE STOMACH!
AH. I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.
FATHER'S VALET. YES. THE BODY REACTING TO EXTREME CIRCUM-STANCES.

V-VALET? WHAT'S HE SAYING?! WHAT DOES HE KNOW?!
!!
HUH!
HE'S OUT OF HIS FUCKING MIND!
CRAZY...
?
HIT A LITTLE GIRL. DRAGGED HER. BUT FATHER... FIXED IT...FOR HIM.
HE DRANK. HID IT WELL UNTIL THE HIT AND RUN.

TOOK A WHILE, BUT HIS BODY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM
INTER-NALIZED STRESS.. GUILT...FEAR IT TAKES A TOLL. FEAR IS THE WORST ONE.
IT BREAKS DOWN THE BODY INTERNALLY. STOMACH ACID IS OVERPRODUCED... CHURNS...BURNS THE LINING OF THE STOMACH.
WHEN LEFT UNCHECKED... FATHER'S VALET WOUND UP HOSPITALIZED. BLEEDING ULCER. THAT'S WHAT THE DOCTORS SAID.
FEAR. GUILT AND FEAR AND ANXIETY--BUT FEAR MOST OF ALL. THE GAME IS ALL ABOUT FEAR.
FEAR BURNS.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AFRAID, SUGIMURA?
HOW LONG ...?
TOO LONG... ALWAYS SOMETHING TO FEAR...
ALWAYS SOMEONE TO BRING THE FEAR...

AND ME... ALWAYS WILLING TO EMBRACE IT!

KAYO
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN?!

YOU DON'T KILL HIM! NOT SUGIMURA!
NO...
I-I WILL! SEE IF I DON'T!
GET AWAY FROM HIM OR...OR... SEE IF I DON'T!
NO...

!!
KAYO... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
RUN! RUN!!
I WILL!
SHOOT YOU DEAD!! I WILL!!
STAY AWAY!! I WILL, GOD-DAMMIT!!
DO NOT MAKE ME!! YOU HEAR?!
.....
I...

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
MISSED HIM..!
AGAIN! AGAIN B- BEFORE HE..
AGAIN!
MISSED
SHOOT HIM!!

SHE CAN'T!!
SHE CAN'T AND HE'LL... HE'LL...!!
NO! NOT LIKE TAKAKO!!
!!

KIRIYAMA!! I STILL STAND, KIRIYAMA!! I STILL FIGHT!!
NOT THIS ONE, KIRIYAMA!!
YOU DON'T GET THIS ONE!! NOT HER!! NOT LIKE TAKAKO!!
NOT KAYOKO!!
SUGIMURA!! RUN, SUGIMURA!! RUN!!

NO!!
NO MORE
RUNNING!!
NO MORE
FEAR!!

?!
WHUH ...?
HE..
KAYO ...?
!!

OH SHIT...

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KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

"Royale hits all the manga bases (martial arts, creepy old men, panty shots) without being Sailor Moon silly... A-"
– Marc Bernardin, *Entertainment Weekly*

You cannot fight what you cannot see. You cannot kill someone who is dead on the inside. It is the defiantly human animal that is forced to kill without purpose....

When Sugimura realizes that he can't beat Kiriyama, he turns to protecting Kotohiki at all costs. But Kiriyama might just beat him to the kill, because he has an ace up his sleeve: Oda's Kevlar vest!

Meanwhile, Kawada and Shuuya discuss just how dangerous Kiriyama really may be. But how can you fight someone who is barely human?

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CHAPTER 89: Awakening

HUH!
NO! PROTECT HER, DAMN YOU!!

DO IT!
NO MORE FEAR! NO MORE!!
YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL.
YOU'RE... NICE.
KAYO ?
...?
NOT...
NOT SCARY AT ALL....

NO!! NOT LIKE TAKAKO !!
'S JUST...YOU WERE KINDA SCARY. TO ME, I MEAN I'M GLAD I WAS WRONG.

GYAH!!
BASTARD!
FUCKING
BASTARD!!
SUGI
?!

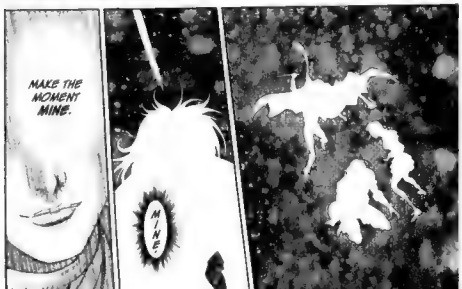
KAYOKO... FOR THE LOVE OF GOD... RUN!!
OMGOD! SUGIMURA!
A CAT...? A FUCKING CAT?!
WHA ...?
A CRICKET ?!
WHAT ...?
!!

LUCK, FEAR, HESITATION... SHIT HAPPENS REGARDLESS... CAT 'N' CRICKET...
SHIT HAPPENS ...
CAT CAUGHT THE CRICKET... NOT SUCH GOOD LUCK...
?
GOOD LUCK ?!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
A CRICKET
AREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD LUCK...? CRICKETS? AREN'T THEY...?
OH GOD SUGI ?!
HESITATE ALL YOU WANT... STILL GONNA HAPPEN!
GETCHA GOOD...
SHIT GONNA HAPPEN WHETHER YOU'RE READY OR NOT...
EITHER WAY... LUCK OR HESITATION... EVENTS WILL FLOW!
EVENTS FLOW. YOU EITHER FLOW WITH THEM OR RAGE AGAINST THEM.
EITHER WAY, THEY STILL FLOW
COURAGE IS UN-IMPORTANT FEAR? UN-IMPORTANT.
THEY ONLY AFFECT YOUR REACTIONS.

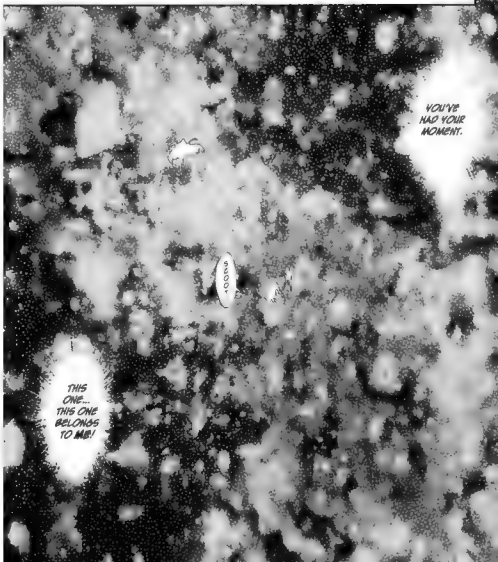
.....
NOT WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.
IT'S NEVER BEEN ABOUT STRENGTH NOR SKILL.
THAT SINGULAR POINT IN TIME THAT YOU MAKE YOURS!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE MOMENT.
NO MORE FEAR.
MAKE THE MOMENT MINE... NOT HIS.
MINE...
THE MOMENT.
.....

!!
HH!

WHAT ARE YOU...?! SUGIMURA!!
KIRIYAMA, HE'S— DAMMIT, SUGIMURA!!


MAKE THE MOMENT MINE.
MINE

NOT LIKE TAKAKO... NOT EVER AGAIN.
GO ON...
.....


YOU'VE HAD YOUR MOMENT.
POOF!
THIS ONE... THIS ONE BELONGS TO ME!

NO HESITATION!! NO FEAR!! NOT LIKE TAKAKO!!

STAY CLEAR
.....
I'D ASK YOU TO RUN. .BUT APPARENTLY YOU WON'T.
SO JUST STAY CLEAR.
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

UH HUH.
THEN IT'S OUR MOMENT OURS
.....
OUR ?
I DON'T
WHATEVER COMES OF IT IT'S OURS.
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
.....
LIKE THIS, HUH?
DRAGON-BALL Z, RIGHT? PRETENDING THE MOMENT WAS YOURS.

LIKE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION... OUR FLOWER ARRANGING TEACHER, SHE WAS REALLY INTO THAT KINDA STUFF.
WHAT'S INSIDE... KI...
INNER ESSENCE EXTER-NALIZED...KI SIGNATURE...
ホ ヶ。。
...FOCUSING ON THE MOMENT...
A WAY OF...
.....
hhh..

!!
JUST A TRICK?
NO...
HE CAN'T...!
A FOCUS. YOUR TEACHER KNEW...
HMH...
HOW...?!
HOW DID HE DO THAT?!
HUH!

LIVE IN THE MOMENT!! SHAPE IT!!! PINPOINT FOCUS!!

HARD FOCUS!!

SUGIMURA! WHAT...? HOW...?

THE WIND...
?!
.....?
JUST THE WIND
EVENTS FLOW. THE WIND WOULD HAVE BLOWN REGARDLESS.
SO I MADE THE MOMENT MINE. LET THE MOMENT FLOW OVER ME.. THROUGH ME...
SUCH A BOY SCOUT...
YOU...
YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT HERE!

SHU KNEW, TOO. EVERY MOMENT COUNTS. WHAT YOU DO WITH THAT MOMENT...
I NEVER WAS THAT FAST ON THE PICK UP, YOU SEE.
NOW I GET IT...NOW I DO! TAKAKO ALREADY KNEW...
THAT..
..THAT COUNTS MOST OF ALL?
YEAH.
PROTECT HER.

TO MY DYING BREATH, KAYOKO.
I WILL DEFEND YOU TO MY DYING BREATH.
BECAUSE I LOVE HER. AND AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT... THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

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CHAPTER 90: Transcendental

I HEARD YOU COMING.
NO... FELT YOU COMING.
I'VE GOT YOUR RHYTHM NOW...
YES...

I SEE YOU CLEARLY NOW!
THE FLOW OF YOUR MOVEMENT...
NOT A MACHINE! NOT INHUMAN!
JUST A MAD 006.

I KNOW YOU, KIRIYAMA!!
SHOO
DID IT!
TAGGED HIM! DREW BLOOD! HE CAN BE HURT!
AH

...IT'S LIKE A DANCE
IT...
HE CAN'T LOSE!
HE CAN'T!
...AND I KNOW THE STEPS! I CAN ANTICIPATE HIM!
LIKE A DANCE...
?!
WHAT ?!
HE...

SUSUMURA! NO!!

!!
HE... DISAP-PEARED...
...KNEW IT WOULDN'T
OKAY
...WOULDN'T BE THAT EASY...
NO...
THAT'S ALL... PEOPLE DON'T JUST WHITE OUT...
LOST HIS RHYTHM...
ドゥ...
ドン!!
!!
NO! GET UP!
NUH...
UP...

TAKES EVERY ADVANTAGE, THIS ONE! STRENGTH AND CUNNING... BASTARD!
NO...
NO WHITE OUT...LEFT EYE...BLIND SPOT...
.....
STAY WITH IT!
DO NOT LOSE IT...
DO NOT...
AO
DO NOT LOSE THE MOMENT!
STRENGTH WILL ONLY TAKE YOU SO FAR...

EVENTS FLOW...AND TODAY--I FLOW WITH THEM!
NOT NOW!
NOT TODAY. NO RELUC-TANCE TODAY.
THERE IS ALWAYS, WITH YOU, A RELUCTANCE. AS IF YOU FEAR YOU WILL COME TO LIKE IT...PERHAPS NEED IT.
BUT TODAY THERE WAS NO RELUCTANCE... MOST UNLIKE YOU.
NOT ANY-MORE.
NO.
.....

THERE WILL BE NO RELUC-TANCE. SHE IS MY ALL!
SHE IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.
THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR.
...I DIE FOR HER. I EMBRACE THE MOMENT.
IF I DIE TODAY...
FOR HER.

...ALL FOR THIS MOMENT!
ALL FOR HER!
YES...
!!!!
!!
ALL I AM... ALL I'VE BEEN...

I CAN FEEL HIM FROM HERE...HIS PRESENCE...
JUST A MAN...A BOY...NOT A MACHINE.
I CAN DO THIS! I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN!
!!
THE CAT...

SURE...
STAYED TO WATCH THE SHOW, DID YOU?
STAYED TO SEE THE PREY TAKEN DOWN...
LIKE YOUR CRICKET, EH?
!!
.....
WATCH, THEN.

WATCH ME PROTECT HER.
I FEEL HER MOST OF ALL. IT BURNS...
BUT A GOOD BURN.
KAYOKO... YOU STILL THINK WE'RE THE PREY.
YOU HAVEN'T FELT WHAT I'VE FELT.
THIS... THIS IS OUR MOMENT! FEEL IT!

HE'LL STRIKE FROM MY BLIND SIDE.
LEFT EYE...BLIND EYE...I CAN COMPEN-SATE.
THERE. THERE IT IS.

NOT A MACHINE...
JUST A BOY.

AH...YOU KNOW... YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
YOU LET ME GET LOW AND INSIDE.
LEVER-AGE.
THRUST ...

NO HESI-TATION!!
THE MOMENT IS MINE!!

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Chapter91
SURPRISE, YOU MURDERING FUCK.
.....

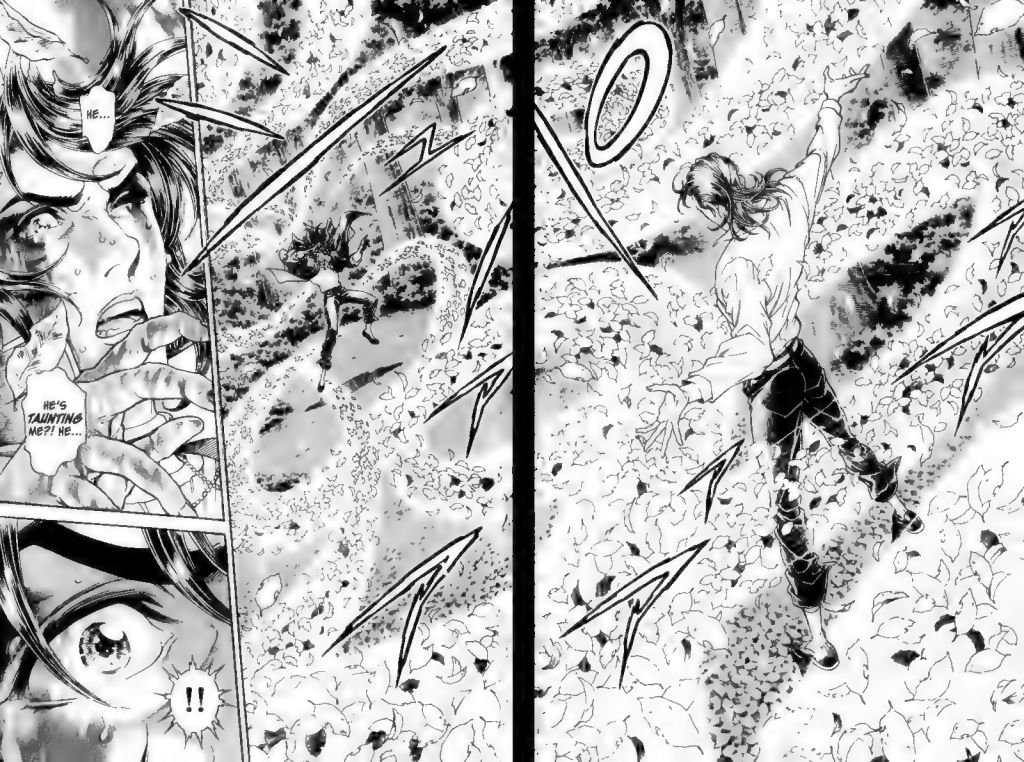
CHAPTER 91: Copy

FEEL HIM...
.....
FEEL THE MOMENT. LET IT FLOW...

NO HESITATION!! NO MERCY!!
FLOW WITH IT... LET HIM BRING IT TO YOU...
!!

SUGI-MURA ?
DA-AMN!

No..
?
NO! HE CAN'T!
WHAT'S HE...?
?
Hm..
Hm..


HE...
HE'S TAUNTING ME?! HE...
!!

GHYA GH!!
FUCK A DUCK--!!

NO! SUGI-MURA!!
GET
ゴゴゴゴ

GET UP! GET UP!!
TAUNTED.. GOT IN CLOSE..
CHRIST! HE MIMICKED ME!
KKAKK-AK.. SUNNUVA..!
HOW...?!
AS IF HE READ MY MIND!
NO
MADE THE MOMENT HIS.

...BUT KIRIYAMA PICKS IT UP AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF WATCHING ME?!
I'M... YEARS LEARNING TO LIVE THE MOMENT... TO FLOW WITH EVENTS...
MIMIC... JUST A CLEVER MIMIC... THAT'S ALL!! MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO...!!
H-H.
H-H...
H-H...
NO.
NO ONE IS THAT GOOD!
NO ONE!

H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
...AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.
IT'S LIKE...
NO MORE FEAR, REMEMBER?
H-H
H-H
FOCUS, DAMMIT!
DO IT FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD AND BECAUSE SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES...
DO IT FOR HER... AND FOR SHUUYA... AND ALL OF THE OTHERS!
?
JUST DO IT AND BE DONE WITH IT!!
NO MORE FEAR AND NO MORE STUPID GAMES AND NO MORE OF THIS!!

THERE IS NO BETTER REASON THAN THAT!
LOOK PAST YOURSELF
STRENGTH IS NOT THE WHOLE OF IT.
...IT'S THE RIGHT FUCKING THING TO DO!
THERE? SEE? IT'S LIKE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.
FIND HER! YOU FIND HER AND COME BACK TO US!
...BUT I WANT IT MORE!!
NOT AS STRONG AS HIM... NO, I'M NOT...

FOR HER!
FOR KAYOKO! I WILL PROTECT HER!!
!!
NOT FOR THE GAME!
NOT FOR ME!
OH... OH GOD...
.....
LET EVENTS UNFOLD... FLOW WITH THEM...
RETAKE THE MOMENT...
ポォウ
DO RIGHT BY HER... GO WITH IT...FEEL HIM...

HNGH!
IT'S AS IF HE WERE IN MY HEAD, READING ME LIKE A BOOK!
HOW DOES HE DO THIS?! ADAPT LIKE THIS...?!
LEARN WITHOUT BEING TAUGHT?! HOW...?!
CLOSE
FOCUS, DAMN YOU!!
RRAH!!
NO! FOCUS!

THERE.
MUST RECAPTURE THE MOMENT...
AWARENESS. FEEL THE MOMENT!
NOT STRENGTH...
NO...
THERE
FEEL IT...

SUGIMURA! HIS HAND! SUGIMURA!!
HIS HAND!!
キィィィィィ
LET EVENTS UNFOLD... FLOW WITH THEM...FEEL THE MOMENT... FEEL...

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CHAPTER 92: Inversion

I...
HIP.
ZUOO..
DEFEAT'S... A MOMENT...
GO... FI... GURE.
HA-HA.

OH...
PLEASE
.....
ニヤコオ

!!
PUNK
OUR MOMENT!
WHATEVER COMES OF IT...IT'S OURS!
HE PROMISED!! HE PROMISED ME!!
DON'T

NOT FOR ME! NOT FOR THE GAME! FOR HER!! FOR KAYOKO!! I WILL PROTECT HER!!

ナッ。
ナッ。
NO!

CLK

YOU LOST IT
.....
LOST THE MOMENT, MOTHER-FUCKER. SURE DID.
BAD MOVE.
SOMETIMES THE MOMENT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT NOT EVEN CLOSE.
DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS YOURS. DEFEAT'S A MOMENT, TOO. YOU ALMOST HANDED ME THAT MOMENT-- ALMOST.
SUGI
I KNEW HE COULDN'T...
AND WHEN-- IF--THAT MOMENT COMES, I'LL BE THERE TO FLOW WITH IT!
WRONG, KAYO.
HE COULD. ODDS ARE HE WILL.

TOOK YOUR EYE OFF THE PRIZE, KIRIYAMA.
LOST THE MOMENT. YEAH. I CAN RELATE.
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE.
.....
...IF I HADN'T GONE WITH THE MOMENT AND LET YOU TAKE A FREE SHOT AT ME--YOU WOULDN'T'VE KNOCKED ME OVER HERE...
FATE? KISMET? GOING WITH THE FLOW? MOOT POINT, KILLER.
.....
...HERE BY THE GUN.

OUT GOES THE BAD AND IN COMES THE GOOD. CAN YOU SAY "DEAD MEAT", BOYS AND GIRLS? I KNEW YOU COULD...
HOW'S *THAT* FOR A MOMENT, EH?!
ONLY THING COUNTS NOW'S THAT I'VE GOT THE GUN.
ヨロ。
ガチャ

HUH.

SEIZED THE MOMENT...
MADE THE MOMENT MINE...
DID RIGHT BY HER
CLACK
KIRIYAMA... GOT 'IM GOOD..
GOT HIM...
O-DID IT...

SO SORRY...
...NOT THERE FOR YOU...
TAKA..
NO MORE FEAR, TAKAKO.
DID IT.....
GOT HIM...
NO MORE FEAR...
HI!

NO MORE CRYBABY... JUST LIKE YOU SAID... GOT 'EM!
!
SHOULD HAVE... BEEN THERE... FOR YOU...
NOT LIKE YOU, TAKA...
KAYO...
I DID IT...
.....

I NEED YOU TO BE OKAY!!
SUGIMURA... I WAS SO SCARED !! PLEASE BE OKAY.. !!
ALL... ALL MESSED UP AND IT DOESN'T HURT...
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...
THAT...
NOTHING HURTS...
SHE DOESN'T KNOW, DOES SHE? THAT'D BE JUST LIKE YOU!
!!
YOU, TOO... RIGHT? YOU, TOO..
SURE...
IF IT... IF IT DOESN'T HURT, THEN... YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY... OKAY? PROMISE! OKAY?!
BUT... THAT'S A GOOD THING--- RIGHT?!

ONLY FINGER LEFT... HEH...
HEH.. SUGI TAP...
?
FOR GOD'S SAKE...
...GROW A SET!
KAYOKO... SOMETHING TO SAY... TELL YOU...
TELL HER...
YES... TIME TO TELL...
I... UM...
YOU ...
TOLD ?
.....
...BEFORE ALL THIS... BY THE STREAM... ALMOST TOLD THEN...
BE-FORE ...
SUGI?

REMEMBER THAT...DON QUIXOTE BOOK...WE READ IN LIT?
.....
HOW HE LOVED THIS WOMAN FROM AFAR...BUT COULDN'T BRING HIM-SELF TO... Y'KNOW. TELL...?
IT'S YOU...
IT WAS YOU I HAD TO FIND... NO MATTER WHAT...
I WAS ALWAYS TOO AFRAID... MIMURA ONCE THREATENED TO TELL YOU...
...ABOUT HOW MUCH I... CARED... FOR YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT LOVE IS SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE...
THAT'S HOW I USED TO LOOK AT YOU...IN THE FLOWER CLASS...
THAT'S ME...
I CARE SO MUCH...
...FOR YOU... KAYOKO.

...BUT I THINK I'M CLOSE TO KNOWING... WITH YOU...

BATTLE ROYALE

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Chapter93
SERIES 70
GOVERNMENT MODEL
AUTOMATIC CALIBER
FUCK...

CHAPTER 93: Promise

MOVE AND I KNEECAP YOU.
BELIEVE IT!
BUT NOWHERE NEAR AS PERFECT AS YOU THINK.
YOU'RE GOOD. DAMN GOOD.
NICE BULLET HOLE YOU'RE SPORTING THERE. NO BLOOD.
AND I DON'T SEE HOW THAT'S POSSIBLE...

...UNLESS YOU'RE THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE PLANET KRYPTON...
...OR YOU'RE PACKING KEVLAR.
A BULLETPROOF VEST... BULLETPROOF VEST... BULLETPROOF...
IDIOT --!!
THE VEST!!

IDIOT!! KIRIYAMA TOOK DOWN ODA!!
ODA! KIRI-YAMA... HE...

KAYO RUN...
GLK...
RUN...
!!

RUN...
PLEASE... KAYOKO...!
MY MOMENT... NOT YOURS... RUN...

I TAKE... TAKE IT BACK... NOT OUR MOMENT... MINE... JUST MINE...
NO... HE'LL...HE... WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?
RUN...
.....?
DON'T...

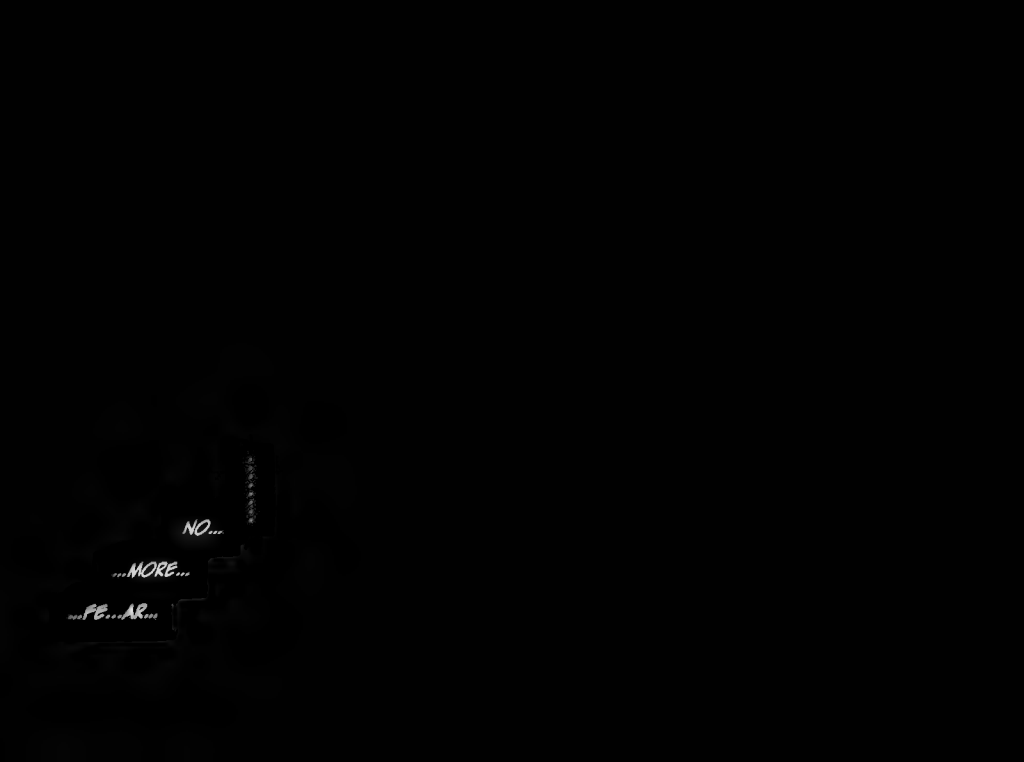
NO!!
NOT LIKE TAKAKO!!
WHAT ARE YOU...? DON'T...
?!
.....
NEVER SHOULD'A...

NEVER SHOULD'A TOL' HER...
.....
WHY DON' SHE RUN 'WAY...?
?!....

NEVER SHOULD'A TOL' HER... JUS' LIKE TAKA...

FWOO
OH...
KAY... KO?

.....
!!
JUS'...
JUS' LIKE TAK... O...


NO...
...MORE...
...FE...AR...

ALL FOR HER...

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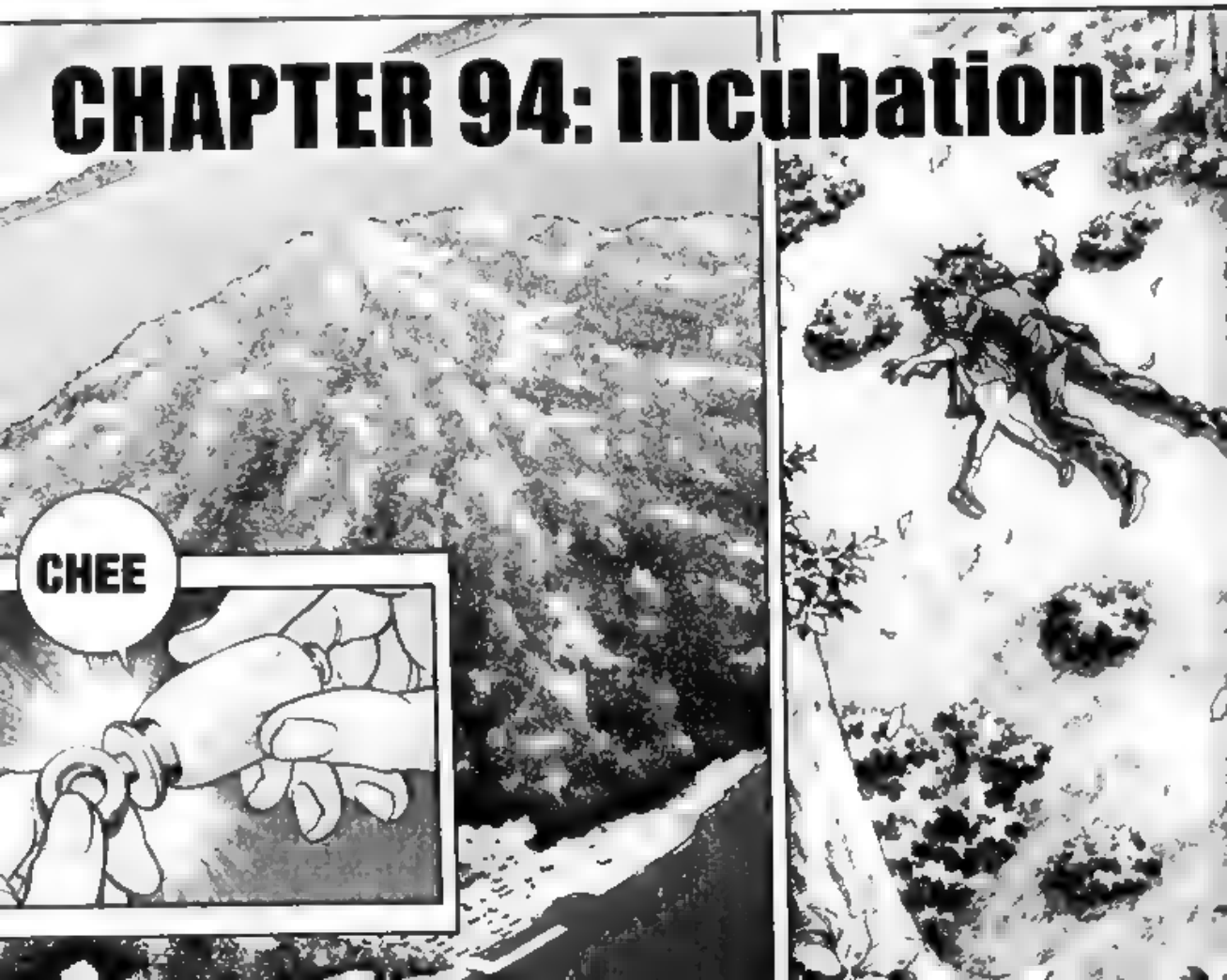
CHAPTER 94: Incubation



CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
クロック。

ALL THIS SITTING AROUND'S BEGINNING TO GET TO ME.
NOT TOO ANNOYING..
THAT'S IT. I'M GONNA TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
!!

HE KNOWS BETTER... 'LEAST I HOPE HE DOES.
.....

IS THAT WISE?
.....

KOTOHIKI, TOO... IF SUGI FOUND HER. FUCKER JUST DOESN'T QUIT!
WHO'S TO SAY HE WASN'T OFF-LOADING ON SUGIMURA?
THEY WERE RAPID FIRE-- WHICH MEANS KIRIYAMA.
YOU HEARD THE SHOTS.

.....
LOOK... THINK IT THROUGH, PEOPLE.
THAT'S SUGIMURA'S PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?
.....
FUCK
WE'LL KNOW WHEN HE-- CORRECTION, IF--HE SHOWS UP. TILL THEN, WE PLAY IT SMART AND STAY PUT.
WHAT'S HAPPENED, HAPPENED. NO TAKING THAT BACK. SUGIMURA'S EITHER DEAD...OR HE AIN'T.
HE'LL BE HERE!
YOU YOURSELF LOCKED HORNS WITH SUGIMURA! YOU REALLY THINK HE'S THAT EASY TO TAKE DOWN?!
HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, WILL YA?!
!!

BUT
SUGIMURA'LL BE LUCKY SHE DOESN'T SHOOT HIM ON SIGHT
SHU... ONLY THE HARDCORE ONES ARE LEFT. WELL, THEM AND US.
WHERE YOU FIGURE THIS KAYOKO CHICK FITS IN?
THERE'RE EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE! WE'RE PROOF OF THAT!
B-BUT...NOT ALWAYS! JUST LOOK AT US!
KUH...
!!
IF SHE HAS A GUN, THAT IS. LOOK...ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THERE'RE NO GUARANTEES. THE GAME SEES TO THAT.
AND IF SUGIMURA FINDS HER DEAD?
SHUUYA, I KNOW I'M BEING A PRICK HERE, BUT...

...WE'RE HEADING FOR THE ENDGAME. ALL BETS ARE OFF. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. ANYTHING!
SO... WE STAY PUT. OKAY?
AS FOR ME...
...I'M HOPING THAT PSYCHO-BITCH MITSUKO AND KIRIYAMA JUST HAD IT OUT.
.....
.....
BETTER FOR US. BETTER FOR SUGIMURA 'N' HIS SWEETIE. BETTER STILL IF THEY CAPPED EACH OTHER.

EITHER WAY, IT'S ONE LESS PSYCHOTIC FOR US TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH. I COULD DEFINITELY LIVE WITH THAT.

Bower

TAKE IT!
DADDY'S GIRL!

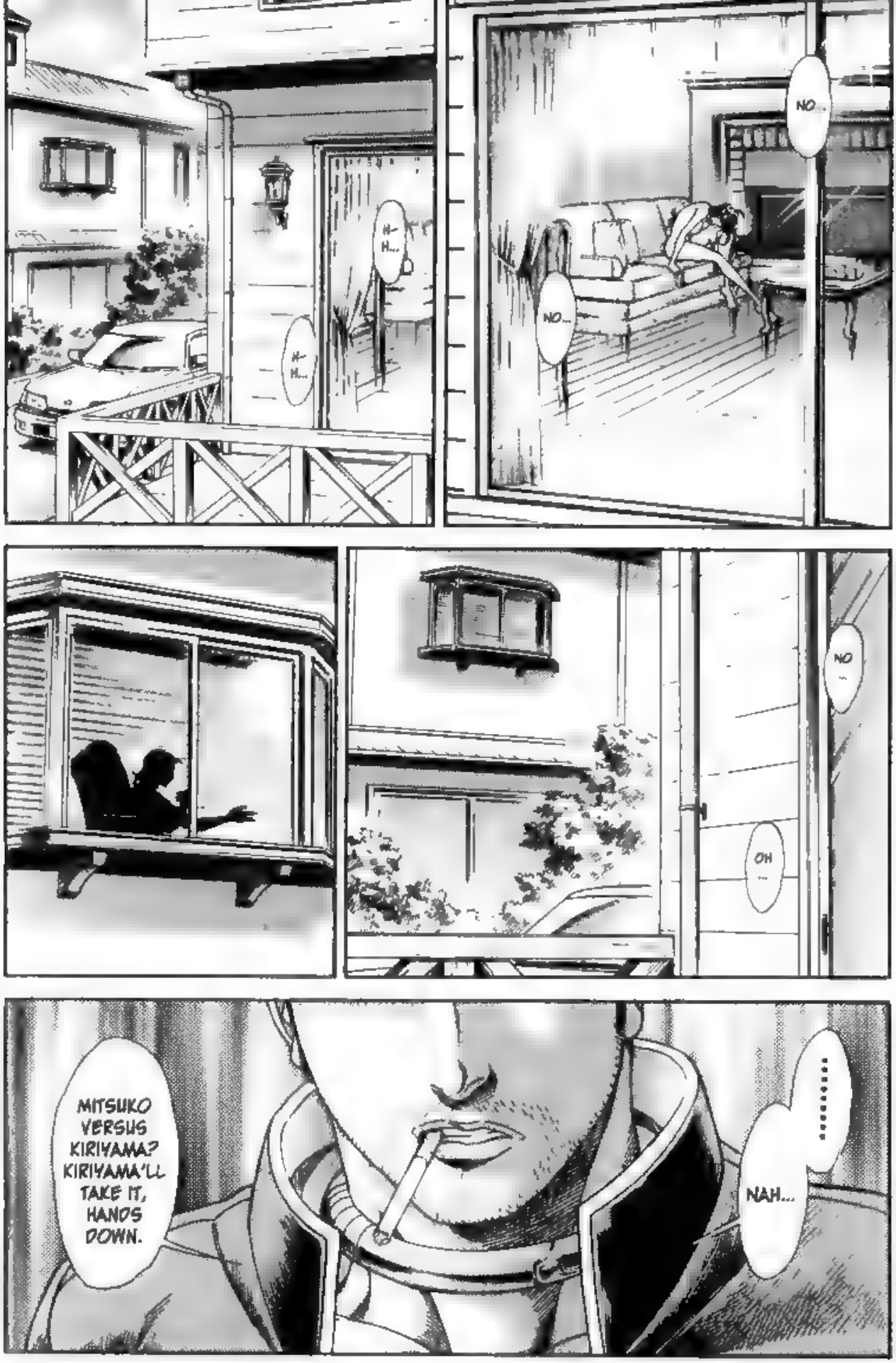
K-K-KILLING ME!!
GET OFF! GET OFF OF ME!!
...YOU LYING SACK OF SHIT?!
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY EYES NOW...
LIE TO ME, YUICHIRO. PRETEND TO CARE.
HE'S TAKING OUR TRUST!

I DON'T THINK REALLY BAD PEOPLE...
I DON'T THINK THEIR EYES CAN EVER LOOK THAT WAY.
Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES WHEN I SEE YOU...
...YOUR EYES LOOK SO HARD. SCARY... BUT-ALWAYS SAD...
I HOPE YOU FIND WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...
LIKE YOU'RE... LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
I REALLY DO.
I HOPE YOU FIND WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, MITSU.
...SOMETIMES THEY DO BAD THINGS...
AND LOST PEOPLE

I CAN STILL TASTE YOU, YUI-CHIRO....
SUCH A PITY... SUCH A PRETTY BOY...

HMM?
H-H...
H-H...
MMM
.....
DADDY SAID...
PINKEST... PINKEST AND PRETTIEST...
SO MUCH LOVE FOR MITSU...

DADDY'S GIRL!! DADDY'S GIRL!!
TAKE IT ALL!!
TAKE IT!!
TAKE THE LOVE!!
TAKE IT!


H-H...
H-H...
NO...
NO...
NO...
OH...
MITSUKO VERSUS KIRIYAMA? KIRIYAMA'LL TAKE IT, HANDS DOWN.
NAH...

GOT A FEELING SHE LEADS WITH THOSE TITS--SORRY, NORIKO. I JUST THINK KIRIYAMA'S NOT THE TYPE TO GO FOR THE BAIT.
NOT GAY, MIND YOU. JUST DRIVEN. SINGLE-MINDED DETERMINED TO WIN.
Hmm,,,

キュッ..
TRUST ME-- IF THOSE TWO TUSSLE, WE'RE BETTER OFF IF IT'S MITSUKO THAT WALKS AWAY.
H''
H''
H''

'CUZ KIRIYAMA... HE AIN'T PLAYING BECAUSE HE HAS TO. HE'S PLAYING BECAUSE HE *WANTS* TO.

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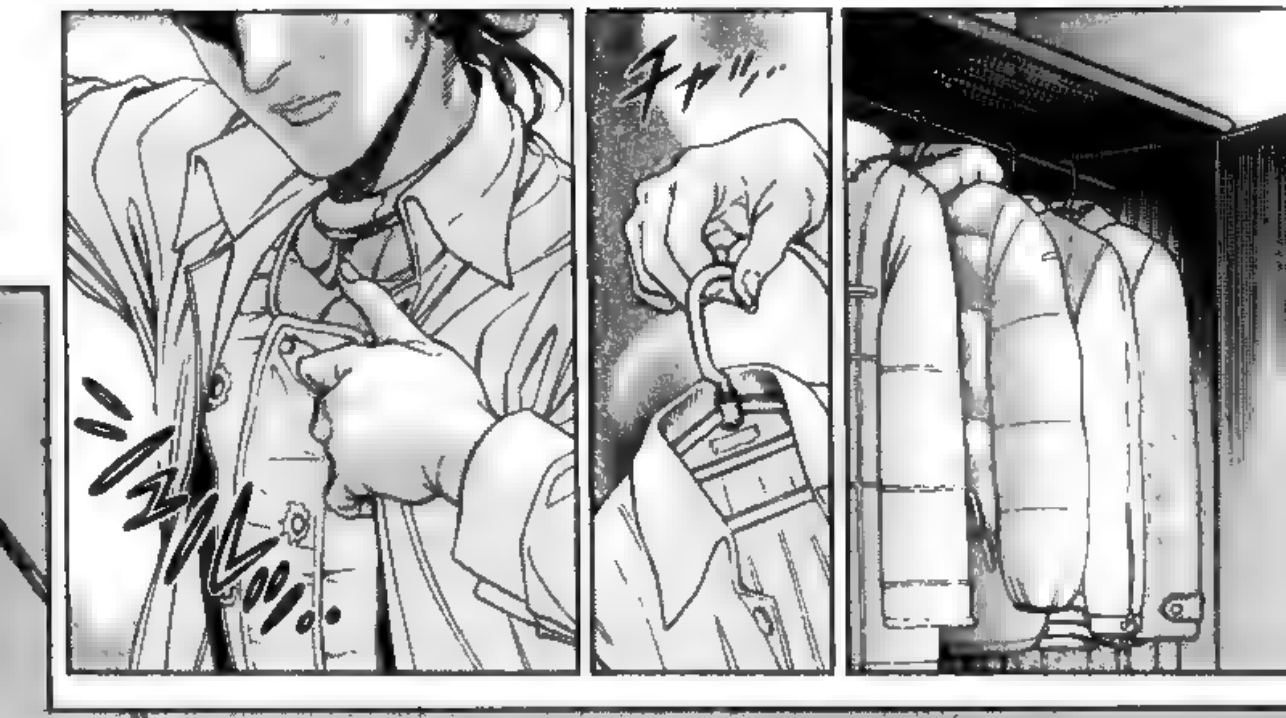
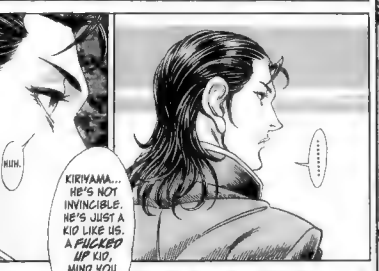


Chapter95



CHAPTER 95: Reason

TAKE SUGIMURA-- HE'S GOT THE MARTIAL ARTS EDGE. IT COMES DOWN TO IT, HE COULD TAKE KIRIYAMA DOWN EASY! BET ON IT!
AT BEST, HE'S GOT SUPERIOR FIREPOWER! BUT THAT'S BY PURE LUCK! HELL, NORI WAS GIVEN A BOOMERANG, F'CHRISSAKE!
.....
HE'S GOT US TALKING ABOUT HIM LIKE HE'S THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER OR... OR GODZILLA! HE'S PSYCHING US OUT!
CONSCIENCE KILLS OUT HERE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES KIRIYAMA SO EFFECTIVE. I DON'T THINK HE HAS A CONSCIENCE WE'RE TALKING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, GRADE-A SOCIOPATH.
FUNNY THING IS, IF THE GAME HADN'T COME ALONG AND DERAILED HIM, HE'D PROBABLY HAVE BEEN A PRETTY SUCCESSFUL CORPORATE EXEC.
HE'S GOT TO BE TAKEN OUT. YOUR FRIEND UP TO THAT? WILL HE KILL IF HE GETS THE CHANCE?
THE SUGIMURA I MET WAS NO KILLER. TAKING KIRIYAMA DOWN'S NOT ENOUGH.
.....
I.. I DON'T KNOW

.....
SAME TRAITS THAT WOULD HAVE PROPELLED HIM UP THE CORPORATE LADDER ARE SERVING HIM WELL HERE.
PUT SIMPLE-- HE'S A PREDATOR. PERIOD.

HE'S NOT TED FUCKING BUNDY! HE'S...A KID! JUST A KID LIKE US, REMEMBER?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! THAT HE'S DONALD TRUMP WITH A SEMI-AUTOMATIC?!

.....
!!
NOWHERE NEAR "JUST LIKE US".
NUH-UH.

ARE YOU TALKING BRAIN DAMAGE?
NUH?
FLAT. LIKE A LIZARD'S. LIKE SOMETHING UP TOP'S NOT CONNECTING RIGHT...IF IT'S EVEN CONNECTED AT ALL.
KIRIYAMA'S... VACANT YOU'VE SEEN HIS EYES.

VACANT. SHUUYA. DEAD INSIDE. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. DOCTOR'S KID, REMEMBER?
IF THE SHIV FITS. EVER SEEN HIM LAUGH? CRY? EVER SEEN HIM THE LEAST BIT EMOTIONAL?
MITSUKO! IS SHE THE SAME?! IS SHE DEAD INSIDE, TOO?!
YOU...
YOU REALLY THINK HE'S...
.....
MITSUKO... SHE'S DAMAGED. BET ON THAT. BUT...
I DON'T THINK SO...
.....

...I'VE COME ACROSS MY SHARE OF ABUSED KIDS. SHE DEFINITELY FITS THE PROFILE.
SOMEONE SCREWED UP HER EMOTIONAL INPUT, BIG TIME. BUT I'M GUESSING THAT, UNLIKE KIRIYAMA, MITSUKO FEELS.
SHE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE FEELINGS. SO SHE...I DUNNO...
"ACTS OUT"
MMM. VERY NICE

YOU WANT TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO?
IT'S THIS SIMPLE-- KIRIYAMA YOU TAKE DOWN LIKE A MAD DOG. STRAIGHT REMOVE THE FUCKER FROM THE HERO.
MITSUKO? THAT'S A MERCY KILL. YOU DO IT BECAUSE YOU GOT TO... BUT IT'S STILL NOT LIKE KIRIYAMA. UNDERSTAND?
GUN AS ACCESSORY... WHO KNEW? IT WORKS FOR YOU, GIRL.

!
♪
MITSUKO... SHE'LL ALWAYS BE A VICTIM.

WE'LL BE A FAMILY.
FOR REAL. JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.
.....
DADDY'S GIRL...
SEE HOW MUCH DADDY LOVES HIS LITTLE MITSU?
.....

ハロウィン。
DADDY'S ...
PWR
ALL THE WHILE TAKING AND TAKING... FIRST THE TRUST...
YOU CALL IT LOVE. YOU ALL DO... MITSU KNOWS...

THEN...THEY WIN. THE GOVERNMENT... THE NETWORK... THE GAME ALWAYS WINS!
IT'S THEM OR US AND... AND THERE'S REALLY NO CHOICE...! THERE NEVER HAS BEEN!
THEN... THERE'S NO REACHING THEM.
EACH ARE LOCKED IN THEIR OWN PRIVATE HELLS AND THERE'S NO REACHING THEM, IS THERE...?
WHEN THEY COME FOR US...WE'LL PLAY. WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE.
WE'VE BEEN DELUDING OUR-SELVES.
.....
NORIKO! NO! WE...
KILL OR BE KILLED. WE'VE NO CHOICE.
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING ALL ALONG...
?
HERE. CHECK THIS OUT.
BUT NOT BY THEIR RULES.
YEAH. WE'LL PLAY.
.....

GOOO.
NOW THIS.. CLEAR ENOUGH?
"DESK"? WHAT'S WITH...?
?
CAN YOU READ THIS?
!!
"CHERRY BLOSSOM".
?!
THAT'S LIM
?
JUST PLAY ALONG, WOULD YOU?
THERE. WHAT'VE WE GOT NOW?
LET'S MOVE OH, SHALL WE?
YOU'RE JUST PISSED BECAUSE NORIAED YOU.
.....
IS THERE A POINT TO THIS? DESK? CHERRY BLOSSOM? I MEAN, C'MON!

I KNOW THE FONT'S OUTDATED, BUT GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT...
HUH!
!!

NO... "MURDER".
IT SAYS MURDER
"DESK" AS INNOCUOUS, "CHERRY BLOSSOM" AS DIVERSION, "MURDER" AS EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.
IT'S KIND OF AN..."ORAL" RORSCHACH TEST. VERY BASIC. CRUDE, ACTUALLY.
SAY WHAT?!
LIKE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH OF THAT GOING ON OUT HERE ALREADY!!!
YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES WITH OUR HEADS?!

"DEATH"

CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'RE NORMAL-- AS NORMAL APPLIES TO STANDARDIZED RESPONSES, THAT IS. I KNOW. PRETTY LAME TEST.
MURDER'S A HARD WORD... ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.
I OFFENDED YOU? MADE YOU RECALL ALL SORTS OF UNPLEASANT THINGS? GOOD. THAT'S THE IDEA.
.....
JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT DOES OUR BEING "NORMAL" HAVE TO DO WITH...?
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT
GZZ
NOR-MAL. OKAY
.....
!!
AND BEFORE YOU ASK, NO, KIRIYAMA WOULDN'T SMILE
.....
KIRIYAMA AND MITSUKO THEY WOULD'VE REACTED DIFFER-ENTLY.
COPS USE THIS TEST ON SO-CALLED DELINQUENTS. THE REALLY BAD ONES SMILE
THE BAD ONE'S SMILE BUT KIRIYAMA WOULDN'T? WHY THE TEST, THEN?
I DON'T GET IT.
.....

KIRIYAMA'S NOT THE FIRST ONE I'VE RUN ACROSS.
THE REAL PSYCHOS HAVE NO REACTION AT ALL.
.....
AND BEFORE YOU ASK AGAIN, NO, IT WASN'T DURING MY LAST "PERFORMANCE". DOCTORS' KIDS SEE THINGS.
SEEN MORE THAN MY SHARE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF KIRIYAMA AND MITSUKO CLONES... ENOUGH TO FILL A BOOK. MITSUKO... SHE'D GIGGLE.
"DESK", "CHERRY BLOSSOM", "MURDER". I'VE SEEN KIDS REACT MORE TO "DESK" THAN TO "MURDER".
WANT TO HEAR THE REALLY SCARY PART? SOME OF THOSE SAME KIDS ARE COPS NOW.

BUT I THINK KIRIYAMA MIGHT BE THE WORST OF HIS KIND.
MERCI-LESS, AMORAL AND COMPLETELY DISCON-NECTED.
EVEN MAD DOGS DO WHAT THEY DO FOR A REASON. PAIN, ILLNESS... WHATEVER.
KIRIYAMA... HE DOES IT BECAUSE HE DOESN'T MUCH CARE BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE.

!!

AND THAT'S IF HE CARES AT ALL. SOMEHOW, THAT'D BE WORST OF ALL...
...IF HE JUST DIDN'T CARE.
IF ALL THIS WAS JUST...
...THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE. IF HE'S DOING IT SIMPLY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE BETTER TO DO.

THAT'S WHY, IF THE TWO OF THEM WENT AT IT...I JUST HOPE MITSUKO GOT LUCKY.
.....
CRAZY... THAT I CAN HANDLE. HANDLED CRAZY BEFORE AND CAME OUT IN ONE PIECE.
BUT KIRIYAMA'S WAY PAST CRAZY. WITH HIS KIND... THERE'S JUST NO TELLING.
.....
THAT'S... IT'S...
HE'S JUST A KID! A KID!
!
.....
YOU MAKE HIM SOUND LIKE ED GEIN! I KNOW, I KNOW...ED GEIN WAS A KID ONCE, TOO, BUT...
...SHIT HAPPENS TO MAKE PEOPLE LIKE THAT! KIRIYAMA... IT CAN'T BE THAT CUT AND DRY!
NOBODY CHOOSES TO BE THAT WAY!

KIRIYAMA'S PROBABLY THE MOST DAMAGED OF ALL! IF THERE'S A MERCY KILL OUT THERE, HE'S IT!!
YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE TO MITSUKO, BUT TAKE FROM HIM...!
I'VE BEEN UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH HIM! THERE'S PAIN THERE, TOO!! I SAW IT!!
HUH?
HUH?

HE'S...
.....
カタァ
...MONSTERS ARE MADE!
MONSTERS AREN'T BORN, KAWADA...
SURVIVING CONTESTANTS: 5 and counting...

BATTLE ROYALE

SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster

Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa

8: Kayoko Kotohiki

1: Mizuho Inada

15: Shuuya Nanahara

8: Yoji Kuramoto

1: Yoshio Akamatsu

16: Yuka Nakagawa

9: Yuko Sakaki

2: Yukio Utsumi

16: Kazushi Niida

9: Hiroshi Kuronaga

2: Keita Iijima

17: Satomi Noda

10: Hirono Shimizu

3: Megumi Etou

17: Mitsuru Numai

10: Ryuhei Sasagawa

3: Tatsumichi Ooki

18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi

11: Mitsuko Souma

4: Sakura Ogawai

18: Tadakatsu Hatagami

11: Hiroki Sugimura

4: Toshinori Oda

19: Chisato Matsui

12: Haruka Tanizawa

5: Izumi Kanai

19: Shinji Mimura

12: Yutaka Sato

5: Shogo Kawada

20: Kaori Minami

13: Takako Chigusa

6: Yukiko Kitano

20: Kyoichi Motobuchi

13: Yuichiro Takiguchi

6: Kazuo Kiriyama

21: Yoshimi Yahagi

14: Mayumi Tendo

7: Yumiko Kusaka

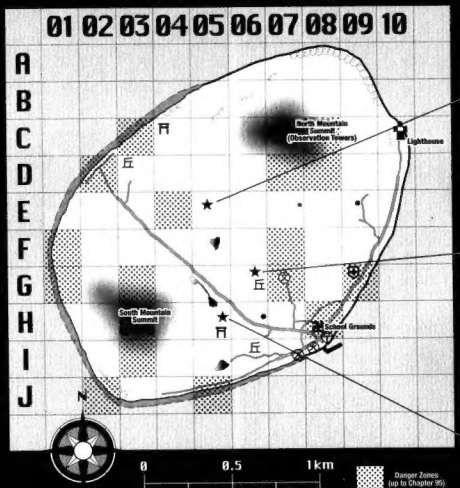
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto

14: Sho Tsukioka

7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

THE PROGRAM: UPDATE

CHAPTERS 88-95



PROGRAM CONDITIONS:

All members of the class must kill each other until one survivor remains • All students are supplied with a ration of food, a map of the island, and a weapon • All students will wear an explosive bomb collar that also monitors life signs • Students are free to move about the island but must stay out of designated danger zones that will frequently change locations • If there is more than one survivor at the end of the game, the remaining bomb collars will be detonated.

CHAPTERS 94-95

CHAPTER 88-93

CHAPTERS 94-95